

ASCC Newsletter December 2000

WMS UPDATE

While access to the WMS is still an issue, the USAF are continuing to improve the system. For those who are able to access the WMS the US CM writes the following, "We can now go beyond the "walking" phase (using only the database function) into the "running" phase (using the document preparation /coordination /ratification tool). We encourage CMs to use this newest function. Now is the time to try it out, so we can fix problems (if needed). Of course all the latest functions are worthless if you can't access the site. We have had success though in getting users from CA, UK and NZ to now have consistent access--that's good progress. The trick is getting your tech people to talk directly to the Pentagon tech people. A/Standards are the point men for your nation's WMS users. Contact the MC if you need help."

STAFF CHANGES

Since the last newsletter there have been several staff changes within the management of the ASCC.

AIRCDRE Worden has been replaced by AIRCDRE Bamfield as the NZ ND, AirCdre Miller has been replaced by AirCdre Sweetman as the UK ND. The CA ND, Gen Sharp has retired from the military and his replacement, who has yet the time of going to press, yet to be announced, will take up as CA ND in the New Year and Stacey Myer has been replaced by Shahenaz Chhipa as the admin1 assistant. The MC passes on thanks for support of the outgoing

members and wishes them all the best for their next endeavors.

Additionally WGCDR Peter Bennett will commence as the AS MC member in Jan 01, taking over from me as SCh for WPs 25, 44 and 90 and as the deputy and Ops sub group chairman for WP45.

'Benny' as he is known, has an extensive operational career as a pilot flying rotary wing and fixed wing transports and as an operations staff officer in the AS Air Command Headquarters. He has just completed a six-month tour as the Air Advisor to the UN Forces in East Timor and is looking forward to the challenges and rewards of working full time in the ASCC. He has recent ASCC experience as the AS Ops member for WP45 and will be a valuable addition to the Management Committee – all the best Benny.

As for the Working Parties there have been numerous changes in members (an ongoing fact of life in this business) and the MC thanks all those outgoing for their efforts in their contribution to improving our nations' ability to fight side by side as airmen and welcomes all new delegates to what can be a very rewarding secondary duty.

WP UPDATES

The final quarter of 2000 has been a very busy time for the ASCC. WPs 25, 80 90, 61, 45 and 70 all met in the period. WP80 conducted a successful combined meeting with their NATO counterpart and hopefully opens up further opportunities for broader international standardization.

Reports for the meetings are either recently published or are imminent. From a SCh perspective, there is an across the board recognition of the quality and preparation of work going into these meetings. What is also evident is the increasing level of valuable information exchanges taking place in the WPs. Whilst finalizing agreements and other formal processes in the ASCC is still a priority, the trend to the increase in simple exchanges of information is an outcome that is fully supported from the NDs down.

MULTINATIONAL FORA

Collaborative efforts are being achieved through the multinational fora. ASCC is the first of the standardization bodies to coordinate its Strategic Plan (in the form of the 2001-2002 ASCC Task Order) with the other groups looking specifically at "Areas of Mutual Interests." The multinational fora is also working to formalize the coordinating process among the other groups. These two initiatives will avoid duplication while taking advantage of the synergistic effects of cooperation.

VTCs – A VALUABLE TOOL

At the NDs Meeting held in Christchurch NZ in March this year, the NDs proposed a series of five way VTC hookups to maintain a closer and more direct role in leading the ASCC. The NDs are very interested in your work with the ASCC. The first VTC was held in July and the second in November. A third is planned for Feb 01 as a lead up to the next NDM in Florida in Mar 01. These VTCs will become a regular occurrence with the NDs agreeing to a schedule of quarterly VTCs to

supplement the annual face to face NDM. The initial outcomes from the first two meetings have been very positive and display a sincere effort by the NDs to raise the profile and worth of the ASCC by active leadership. Another effect also has been to encourage interim between meeting VTCs for the WPs. The intent is to maintain the momentum and enthusiasm evident at the normal meetings but that declines over the long periods between meetings. A number of WPs have plans for such VTCs and the SCh are working to achieve them, but as is always the case, the bottom line is unless the WP delegates apply themselves to the task it won't happen.

2001-2002 TASK ORDER

The MC and AStands are placing the finishing touches to the final draft of the next Task Order. The plan is to have the NDs endorse and sign the ASCC primary management document in Florida in Mar 01. Once signed it will be widely distributed amongst the ASCC and also externally to promote a wider awareness of the ASCC work. There are some noticeable changes from the previous task order. Section Two which identifies deficiencies in interoperability, has been presented in table form to clearly show the interoperability deficiency, the responsible ASCC Working Party and if applicable, any other standardization organization also addressing the deficiency. The intent is to ensure all deficiencies are addressed and that multifora liaison is completed when necessary. Hopefully this will lead to a more coordinated and thorough approach to our task..

In drafting the Task Order this way the MC have been able to identify tasks that

have previously not been addressed even though they had been listed. The result is many of the WPs will find new tasks emerging from the 01-02 Task Order. Another identified outcome is the evolving status of WP45 as the lead WP. While the other WPs have a number of specialist tasks it is evident that WP45 will be the WP that provides the operational concepts and requirements in support of these specialist tasks.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Sadly, writing this newsletter is my final (for the moment) direct task for the ASCC. I depart the Washington Management Committee office on 13 Dec 00 after three years as the AS MC member, two years as AS Astand in Canberra, two years as AS CM to WP44 in Canberra and two years as an AS project officer on WP44 in Sydney. So after nine years of continuous involvement with the ASCC I am moving on to take up my first command as CO of the RAAF No 2 Flying Training School located in Perth Western Australia. In my time I have seen huge improvements in the way the ASCC does business while maintaining the original ASCC mission of 1948, and I am sure the future is well founded for the efforts of the organization. However, there is always an however, no matter how obvious the need for international military interoperability it is the output of the workers who will determine the success of the ASCC – that success will guarantee that when, not if, we have to fight side by side as airmen in joint and combined operations the results are in favour of the 'good guys'.

Cheers, Noddy.